

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23, 25-28, 30-32, 34-45, 47-52, 54-60, 62-65, 67-69, 71-75, and 77-78 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 9, 13, 24, 29, 33, 46, 53, 61, 66, 70, and 76 are canceled.

Claims 11 and 12 were objected to because of various informalities. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended to use the term “comprises” as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, this objection has been overcome.

The Specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. (MPEP § 608.01(o)) Specifically, claim 21 lacked sufficient antecedent basis for the term “the decryption part” and claim 58 lacked sufficient antecedent basis for the term “decryption process.” Claims 21 and 58 have been amended to provide an antecedent basis for these terms. The “decryption part” corresponds to decryption section 40 shown in Figure 4,

and in more detail in Figure 10. The “decryption process” corresponds to the decryption steps S54-S56 shown in Figure 12. Accordingly, Applicants believe these terms are sufficiently supported in the Specification to provide an antecedent basis and this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 40, 41, 44, 45, 51, 54, 59, 60, and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claims 3, 7, 14, 18, 22, 40, 41, 44, 45, 45, 54, 59, and 63 have been amended to address each of the Examiner’s comments. Accordingly, Applicants believe these rejections have been overcome.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that claims 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 24-27, 29-31, 33-37, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 61, 62, 64, 66-68, 70-74, and 76-78 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 8, 14, 18, 19, 22, 23, 40, 41, 44, 45, 51, 54, 59, 60, and 63 were also deemed allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 20, 28, 32, 38, 48, 57, 65, 69, and 75 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 9, 13, 24, 29, 33, 46, 53, 61, 66, 70, and 76, respectively. In addition, all of the § 112 rejections have been addressed. Therefore, Applicants believe all of the remaining claims (1-8, 10-12, 14-23, 25-28, 30-32, 34-46, 47-52, 54-60, 62-65, 67-69, 71-75, and 77-78) should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 20, 28, 32, 57, 65, and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Grynberg et al. (U.S. Patent 4,734,796). Claims 1, 11, 38, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Guglielmino (U.S. Patent 4,584,641). Claims 2, 5, 6, 12, 21, 39, 42, 43, and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Guglielmino and Timmermans et al. (U.S. Patent 5,724,327). However, in view of the amendments discussed above, these rejections are now moot.

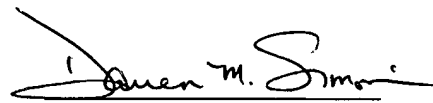
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

An extension-of-time fee is deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment. No additional fees are anticipated, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

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